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A Nepal Record of the Long-eared Bat

(*Plecotus homochrous* Hodgson)

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During an expedition to Nepal in 1949, Robert L. Fleming of the Woodstock School, Mussoorie, U.P., India collected one specimen of the long-eared bat, *Plecotus homochrous* Hodgson. It was found on December 6, 1949, frozen to a rock on the banks of the Kali Gandak River at Jomson, 9200 feet altitude. This is the fourth specimen known and the first record from Nepal. The synonymy of the species is:

***Plecotus homochrous* Hodgson**

Plecotus homochrous Hodgson, 1847, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, vol. 16, p. 895—Central region of sub-Himalayas; Horsfield, 1855, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 2, vol. 16, p. 103 (ref. orig. descr.); Gray, J. E., 1863, Cat. Mamm., etc. Hodgson Coll., p. 2, British Museum, sec. ed.—Darjiling; Dobson, 1876, Cat. Asia. Chiropt., p. 85 (meas. of type); Dobson, 1878, Cat. Chiropt., p. 179 (characters); Wroughton, 1914, Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 23, p. 288—Phurkia, Kumaon, U. P., India (1 male, no meas.); Wroughton, 1918, Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 25, p. 584 (key and distrib.); Hinton and Fry, 1923, Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 29, p. 428 (type locality Sikkim?).

Plecotus auritus Anderson, 1881, Cat. Mamm. Indian Mus., p. 123—"An adult female in alcohol, No. 114A of Blyth's Catalogue. Darjeeling. Presented by Major W. S. Sherwill, 1853."

Type locality. The type locality of *P. homochrous* has been given as Nepal, but this was questioned by Hinton and Fry. The description was published in 1847, and it is known that Hodgson left Nepal in 1843 and spent the years 1845 to 1858 in Darjeeling. Gray's 1863 Catalogue of Hodgson's collections lists Darjeeling as the habitat of this species. Anderson (*supra cit.*) records a specimen of *P. auritus* (= *homochrous*) collected in Darjeeling in 1853 so it would appear to be reasonable to accept Darjeeling as the type locality for *P. homochrous* Hodgson.

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This bat has been collected twice since the type was described. A female was recorded in 1853 from Darjeeling and a male specimen from Kumaon in 1914 but no measurements of either were published. Wroughton in his key gave the forearm of *homochrous* as 40 mm.; Dobson gave 1.4 inches which equals 35.6 mm. The original description listed the forearm as 1-7/16 inches or 36.5 mm.

P. puck Barrett-Hamilton from the Punjab, considered doubtfully distinct from *homochrous* by Wroughton, is said to have a forearm of 38 mm. The forearm of *P. wardi* from Ladak was given by Thomas as 43 mm. Miller (Mamm. West. Europe) gives a range of from 38 to 41 mm. in the forearm of *P. auritus*.

The female collected by Dr. Fleming is larger than any of these and points to the possibility that both *puck* and *wardi* may be synonyms of *homochrous*. The specimen is in alcohol and the skull has not been removed.

Measurements. Forearm 44.5 mm.; second finger, metacarpal 37.1; third finger, metacarpal 39.0, first phalanx 15.3, second phalanx 14.5, third phalanx and tip 8.5; fourth finger, metacarpal 37.9, first phalanx 10.3, second phalanx 9.7, third phalanx and tip 1.8; fifth finger, metacarpal 37.3, first phalanx 10.3, second phalanx 8.2, third phalanx and tip 3.0. Ear, length 42.0, breadth 25.0, tragus length 17. Tibia 21.3, tail 56.6.